up follow up action on the recommendations made in these plans. In these comprehensive plans both short term and long term measures have been suggested.

In order to render financial assistance to Ganga basin States, the Government of India sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a central share of Rs. 110 crores in January, 2001 to take up Critical Anti Erosion Works against which amounts of Rs. 16.33 crore to Uttar Pradesh; Rs. 34.91 crore to Bihar and Rs. 27.66 crore to West Bengal have been released so far. Further, in continuation to the above scheme, based on the recommendations of the committee set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme estimated to cost of Rs. 178.75 crore with a Central share of Rs. 136.17 crore has also been approved which *inter alia* includes schemes to take up critical anti erosion works in the Ganga basin States including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for implementation during Tenth Plan.

(d) The villages referred to in the question are in the vicinity of Chandpur-Dhamaun and Rasalpur on the left bank of the river Ganga. Government of India has already provided Central Assistance for providing bank protection in this reach in the year 2001 and 2002 and the scheme has already been completed at a total cost of Rs. 260.00 lakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme sanctioned in January, 2001. Further, another scheme estimated to cost Rs. 532 lakh with a Central share of Rs. 399 lakh to take up the Critical Anti Erosion Works in the above areas has also been included in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation during Tenth Plan.

Report of the task force on interlinking of rivers

†782. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 101 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted on 13.12.2002 to carry out study under scheme for connecting peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with each other and transfer of water from basins with surplus water to water-scare areas for the maximum use of water, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the same is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Task Force has submitted an Action Plan-I and the preliminary document on Action Plan-II to the Ministry of Water Resources in April, 2003 and August, 2003 respectively, giving an outline of the time schedule for the completion of feasibility studies and detailed project report, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantage of the project, alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods of cost recovery. Final document on Action Plan-II is excepted to be submitted by the Task Force during, 2004.

Meeting of the Chief Ministers' of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

783. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether drinking water problems in Andhra Pradesh has been solved after the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in September, 2003;

(b) if so, the agreements made on this account;

(c) the role of the Central Government to bury the hatchet between two States; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh held a meeting on 20.9.2003 at Bangalore for release of 50 Thousand Million Cubic Foot (TMC) of water from Almatti to supplement the cultivation in Delta system and to meet the drinking water requirement in Nagarjuna Sagar Ayacut, Rayalaseema and Telangana areas. However, no agreement was reached between the Chief Ministers during the meeting for release of water from Almatti dam.